

HONORING COMMUNITY ACTION
PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER
SAINT JOSEPH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Community Action Partnership of Greater Saint Joseph. This agency is active in the St. Joseph community through their work and have been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Employer of Excellence.

Community Action Partnership has a 45 year history of empowering women and opening doors of opportunity, through assistance to young mothers in achieving college dreams to providing development opportunities to help maintain employment for mothers in need. Many staff members began their careers as program participants and have become supervisors and leaders in the organization, all expressing a passion for their work and the agency. With benefits that include flexible hours, work-from-home options, healthcare for both full and part-time employees, and time allotted each week to attend classes, this agency is building a brighter future for 145 individuals and their families. This employer is empowering its staff by encouraging involvement in community organizations, local boards, and leadership programs at the local, state and national level.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Community Action Partnership of Greater Saint Joseph. Their empowerment and dedication to their employees has impacted countless individuals in and beyond the Saint Joseph Community. I am honored to represent this agency in the United States Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND
CREDIT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5297) to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, today I rise in strong support of Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010. Small businesses are the engine of economic growth where nearly two out of three jobs are created. A recent study found that 39 percent of small businesses were struggling to access credit. Today's legislation will address this issue by providing capital to community banks who will lend to these job creating small businesses.

The Small Business Lending Fund Act would establish a \$30 billion fund to lend to small businesses looking to hire and expand their operations by providing additional capital

to community banks. Today's legislation will also create the State Small Business Credit Initiative that would partner with state based programs to lend up to \$20 billion in new lending. This is critical because many state-based programs are being forced to slash funding due to severe budget shortfalls.

Mr. Chair, small businesses will be the catalyst to bring America out of this severe recession. Providing assistance to our small businesses is a necessary and urgent priority. I urge my colleagues to support today's legislation.

HONORING ALAN W. MENDELSON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan W. Mendelsohn of the Department of the Navy, who is retiring after more than thirty-two years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in his role as Deputy Counsel of the Military Sealift Command.

During his more than thirty-two years of federal service, twenty-five of which were spent as an attorney in the Office of General Counsel supporting the Military Sealift Command, Mr. Mendelsohn has consistently demonstrated the highest level of leadership and commitment to his country.

In support of the ongoing war on terror, Mr. Mendelsohn provided distinguished legal services to ensure the award of numerous significant and complex procurements, and to resolve force protection and international law issues related to civilian mariners. In particular, Mr. Mendelsohn was instrumental in the award of the heavy lift contract to return the USS COLE to the United States for repairs following its damage from a terrorist attack. Mr. Mendelsohn also demonstrated outstanding initiative in serving as a business advisor to the Military Sealift Command in the implementation of a significant realignment that has ensured that the MSC can meet the increasing needs of the warfighter at a reduced cost.

Mr. Mendelsohn established himself as a respected expert in the maritime industry and was frequently asked to conduct briefings for Members of Congress and their staff on issues associated with the maritime industry, including overseas ship repair and maritime labor practices. Mr. Mendelsohn also drafted a number of legislative proposals that were enacted into law.

Alan Mendelsohn has exhibited integrity, vision, dedication and civility throughout his career. The commitment and sacrifice of Americans like him enrich our Nation. I am proud, Madam Speaker, to thank Alan Mendelsohn for his honorable service to our Nation. I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished career of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 339,

340, 341, and 342. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures.

JUNETEENTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to acknowledge Juneteenth. I am pleased to be with you this afternoon. I would like to thank you for your commitment to seeking solutions to one of the most pressing challenges facing our community: ensuring that everyone receive all the rights guaranteed under our civil rights laws. I believe that one of the most important violations of civil rights are hate crimes and racial profiling. I also believe that equal access to health, education, housing and health care, are all civil rights. But I will focus on hate crimes and access to adequate health care.

HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

For those of you who ask, "What is Juneteenth," I will tell you. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that the Union soldiers, led by the courageous Major General Gordon Granger, landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free. The Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863. Nevertheless, people held in bondage in Texas had to wait two and a half years after President Lincoln's proclamation, to hear the news of freedom.

It gives me great pleasure to speak about Juneteenth and I would like to share with you the letter that Major General Gordon Granger read to the emotion filled slaves. It reads as follows: "The People of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Prior to June 19, 1865, the Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops available to enforce the new Executive order. Thanks to the meritorious Major Granger and the arrival of his troops, there were forces strong enough to overcome the resistance and to free the slaves.

Many stories have been told about the actual reason for why it took so long for the news of the Emancipation to reach Galveston, but it is very difficult to say which one is true. The fact still remains that the news did not come to the enslaved Texans soon enough. The reactions to the profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation.

Upon hearing the news, many of the newly freed slaves went north and others went to neighboring states, such as Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. For those freed men and women, recounting the memories and festivities of that great day in June of 1865 served as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory.

The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and it grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring one another,